

IMLS Museum Grants for African American History and Culture

Below are examples of recently funded projects that support activities in the Museum Grants for African American History and Culture program.

B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center - Indianola, MS

Year: 2012

Amount: \$149,201

Grant: [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The B.B. King Museum and Delta Interpretive Center will implement a strategic plan focusing on the creation of a viable education department, creation of a collections management plan, and professional development. IMLS funds will enable the museum to employ a full-time museum educator who will develop curricula, lesson plans, and programs that tie to state standards. The museum will train staff in collection cataloging and management with the goal of bringing collections maintenance in-house in the future and making the collection more available to researchers and the public. Continued professional development will be offered to staff with a focus on training in museum-specific skills and nonprofit management.

North Carolina African American Heritage Commission - Raleigh, NC

Year: 2012

Amount: \$149,601

Grant: [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The Gathering Place Project, a training and outreach initiative of the North Carolina African American Heritage Commission, will provide statewide assistance to African American cultural institutions. A series of 12 regional workshops on collections care and museum education concepts will be held at locations throughout the state, reaching over 500 participants. The Gathering Place project is designed to improve the knowledge and skills of staff and volunteers at African American museums. In partnership with the International Civil Rights Museum, Historic Stagville, Fayetteville State University, and Bennett College, the project will offer professional development opportunities for students from eleven local Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts - Brooklyn, NY

Year: 2012

Amount: \$108,954

Grant: [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The Museum of Contemporary African Diasporan Arts Curatorial Fellowship is designed to immerse young curators of African descent in a training program that will orient them to the conceptual and vocational components of working in the curatorial field. For a year, two fellows will work full time at the museum. Fellows will focus on three areas: organizational structure, professional development in the field, and museum curation. Fellows will work on the development and implementation of the museum exhibitions, public programming, catalogues, publicity, grant writing, and web branding. Fellows will build a professional network through artist talks, symposia, research, travel, and site visits to art organizations and artist studios. The fellowship will culminate in an exhibit curated by the fellows.

National Underground Railroad Freedom Center - Cincinnati, OH

Year: 2012

Amount: \$29,841

Grant: [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center will develop an institutional succession plan to provide professional development opportunities to mid-level managers and to mentor and train identified managers and directors to enhance their leadership and managerial skills. The program directly responds to the need for more highly skilled and experienced professionals in the nonprofit sector generally, and in African American museums specifically. By developing a succession plan, identifying emerging leaders within the organization, and providing the leadership and management training necessary to enhance management and museum-specific skills, the Freedom Center will increase institutional sustainability, reduce turnover rates, and improve leadership capacity.

African American Museum in Philadelphia - Philadelphia, PA**Year:** 2011**Amount:** \$149,287**Grant:** [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The African American Museum in Philadelphia will create resources for smaller museums through a project that trains future African American museum professionals. The museum's Fellowship and Seminar Series Program will provide year-long museum fellowships for four African American Studies graduate students. The graduate fellows will work with experienced museum professionals to become familiar with the challenges facing smaller museums. Each fellow will conduct two site visits to interview staff and complete field assessments of these institutions. The fellows will also create an independent project utilizing the museum's collection. In addition, a seminar series will target smaller museums with an African American focus located in the Philadelphia region. The seminars cover the fundamentals of museum management and the basics of collections care and will provide professional expertise to these smaller organizations in a familiar forum and through a trusted source.

Florida A&M University - Tallahassee, FL**Year:** 2011**Amount:** \$149,454**Grant:** [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

Florida A&M University's (FAMU's) Inspiring Authorities in Museum Management Program will address the national shortage of African Americans with advanced museum training. As the number one producer of African American baccalaureate degree holders, FAMU has an untapped reservoir of talented African American students who can be expertly trained in museum practices. Over a two-year period, FAMU will identify six graduate students from various disciplines and train them for careers in museums in collaboration with the Meek-Eaton Black Archives and Museum. The students will receive financial assistance, allowing them to focus on their work in archival, marketing, development, and other community engagement endeavors. They will also attend professional conferences and assist with the continuing development of the center's oral history laboratory and digital archives.

Harvey B. Gantt Center for African-American Arts + Culture - Charlotte, NC**Year:** 2011**Amount:** \$150,000**Grant:** [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The Harvey B. Gantt Center for African American Arts + Culture will build the skill sets of employees responsible for collection management by implementing the recommendations of its 2010 Museum Assessment Program collections assessment report. Funds from the Institute of Museum and Library Services will support a full-time registrar who can fully implement a collection policy to manage and make accessible the museum's art collection. In addition, the project will help inventory, catalog, and secure the permanent collection including the purchase of new storage equipment. A conservator will be hired to conduct a full assessment of the collections and provide recommendations and priorities for future collection care activities. The Gantt Center will also provide training on the importance of collection management to board members. Staff training will include attendance at national museum management and collection conservation meetings and workshops.

Hampton University - Hampton, VA**Year:** 2011**Amount:** \$95,631**Grant:** [Museum Grants for African American History and Culture](#)

The Hampton University Museum will continue to digitize and make accessible its photograph and art collection, resulting in an online art gallery and an organized digital collection that is more accessible to staff and researchers. Training will be provided to staff, volunteers, and students in methods of digitizing and organizing images. This project will digitize transparencies and slides from the fine art collection as well as negatives and prints from the Reuben V. Burrell Photographic Collection; Burrell was a campus photographer for over 65 years. In addition, funding will foster professional development and skill development by supporting the participation of archives and curatorial staff in local workshops and national conferences. A third component of this project will be a series of Saturday exploratory workshops that will introduce local African American high school students to careers in the museum field.